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Iowa TQE Grant Evaluation Year 1 Findings, Recommendations, & Next Steps

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Learning Point Associates

Our Vision

An education system that works for all learners.

Our Mission

We deliver the knowledge, strategies, and results to help educators make fact-based decisions that produce sustained school improvement.

Iowa TQE Project

➢ Project Mission

- Reform and enhance the teaching capacities of Iowa's future teachers so that every Iowa child will have access to the highest quality education possible.

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Iowa TQE Project

➢ Project Goals

- Goal 1: Strengthen Teaching in the Content Areas

- Goal 2: Improve Teaching for Diverse Populations

- Goal 3: Reform and Improvement Through Analysis

- Goal 4: Meeting Future Challenges Through Collaboration

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Iowa TQE Evaluation

➢ Evaluation Mission

- Measure interventions designed to promote improvements in the quality of new teachers via comprehensive statewide reform activities.

Iowa TQE Evaluation

➢ Evaluation Goals

- Provide useful information to the Iowa Department of Education and the project teams regarding implementation strengths and weaknesses.

- Provide formative and summative feedback.

- Recommend strategic and tactical changes to implementation when necessary.

Iowa TQE Evaluation Questions

➢ Goal 1: To what extent has Iowa strengthened teaching in the content areas for those who seek to enter the profession of teaching?

➢ Goal 2: Has Iowa better prepared new teachers to support and teach diverse student populations, specifically targeting English language learners?

Iowa TQE Evaluation Questions

➢ Goal 3: What has Iowa done to reform teacher education programs to make them more effective through rigorous analysis of candidates and program performance data?

➢ Goal 4: Through collaboration, to what extent is Iowa meeting future challenges to help new teachers meet the educational demands of the 21st century?

Iowa TQE Evaluation Reporting

➢ Year 1 Annual Evaluation Report
  - Work and accomplishments of 6 teams
  - December 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007
  - ELL evaluation conducted by University of Iowa

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Goal 1—Strengthen Teaching in the Content Areas

Teams	Data Collection Approach
• Reading & Writing in the Content Areas	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members • Document Review
• Middle Level Content	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members • Document Review
• Language Arts	• Team not evaluated for this report

Goal 2—Improve Teaching for Diverse Populations

Teams	Data Collection Approach
•English Language Learners (ELL)	• Partner with the University of Iowa Evaluation team to ensure report findings are complementary and consistent

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Goal 3—Reform Improvement Through Analysis

Teams	Data Collection Approach
• Assessment	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members • Document Review
• Cross-Institutional Articulation	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members • Online Survey
• Dispositions	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members

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Goal 4—Meeting Future Challenges Through Collaboration

Teams	Data Collection Approach
•Collaborative Plus	• Phone interviews with a subset of team members

Year 1 Report-Interviews and Survey Participants

Team Name	Number of Team Members Interviewed/Surveyed
Assessment Team	1
Assessment Team grant awardees-first round	2
Collaborative Plus	6
Cross-Institutional Articulation Team	6
Cross-Institutional Articulation Team—interviews with survey respondents	2
Cross-Institutional Articulation Team survey participants	18
Dispositions Team	3
Grant Director	1
Middle-Level Content Team	3
Middle-Level Content Team grant awardees	2
Reading & Writing in the Content Areas Team	3
Reading & Writing in the Content Areas Team match-up	2
Total	**49**

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What are we learning?

Complementary Findings Across Teams

➢ Strengths:

- Strong and knowledgeable team leaders
- Teams actively solicit and utilize feedback from a variety of stakeholders
- Teams are able to make connections with their work to the overarching theme of the TQE grant

Complementary Findings Across Teams

➢ Weaknesses:

- Limited collaboration across teams
- Difficulty finding and establishing key contacts amongst stakeholder groups
- Barriers to building consensus among stakeholder groups and within teams
- Frustration with local and state bureaucracy
- Lack of time

Iowa TQE Evaluation

What should we all be *thinking about* and *doing* as we move forward?

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Recommendations

➢ Seek collaboration across TQE Teams when it makes sense.

➢ Continue to use technology to foster and facilitate communication within teams and with stakeholder groups (i.e. ICN).

➢ Develop explicit short-term and long-term goals as well as performance measures in order to gauge effectiveness of work.

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Recommendations

➢ Develop action plans (i.e. communication plans, timelines, resources, and identifying persons responsible) to help ensure sustainability of initiatives.

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Opportunity for Improvement

➢ Collaboratively reflect on TQE grant implementation progress to date and make strategic changes to ensure systemic improvements lead to increased student achievement.

What should you expect from the evaluation team in the near future?

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Next Steps

Task	Timeline
Develop data collection timeline and tasks and share with project teams	June 18-July 13
Schedule and conduct short telephone conversations with project team chairs	June 18–July 13
Align data collection plans to meet individual team needs	July 13-20
Collect data for Interim Report due November 30, 2007	July-October

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Iowa TQE Evaluation

Questions?

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